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Labour Market Information Monthly

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Issue 8 Volume 6

EMPLOYMENT AMONG THE DISABLED[1]

When considering persons with a disability, the assumption often is that they are affected by their disability throughout their life. And yet, among those reporting a disability at some point between 1999 and 2004, only 13% were affected all six years. Thus, a sizeable proportion appear to have a temporary limitation. Disability may also be experienced in phases or episodes, with movement in and out of states of disability of varying severity over time. These phases or episodes likely have major effects on the ability of such persons to participate continuously in the labour market and their ability to meet their needs and those of their family.

Persons with disabilities face different barriers to participation in the labour force, even though maintaining an attachment is often crucial for them. Doing so enables them to meet everyday needs and build self esteem, and gives a sense of belonging to the community. These days, with an aging population and a possible labour shortage, society can ill afford to forgo any contributions. Furthermore, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Human Rights Act protect and ensure access to the labour market for persons with activity limitations by guaranteeing equality and by prohibiting discrimination based on physical or mental disability (Human Resources and Social Development Canada 2006).

Most surveys that deal with disability provide little information on the dynamics of affected persons' participation in the labour market. The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) fills this gap with its longitudinal component and, since 1999, the question on disability addressing functional and societal limitations, in line with surveys that usually deal with this phenomenon.

The complete article, entitled "Employment among the disabled" (in Statistics Canada's May 2009 *Perspectives on Labour and Income* http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2009105/pdf/10865-eng.pdf), compares the labour market participation of people with and without a disability using SLID. With its six-year observation period, SLID provides the years people report limitations and how their participation in the labour force is affected as the number increases. It is also possible to examine labour force participation during the years of disability as well as during the years without disability. Because persons with a disability are more likely to have low employment income, their earnings and social benefits are also examined.

[1] From Statistics Canada, *Perspectives on Labour and Income, May 2009*

This Month

- Featured Article: Employment Among the Disabled
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Cities Report
- The Industry Report

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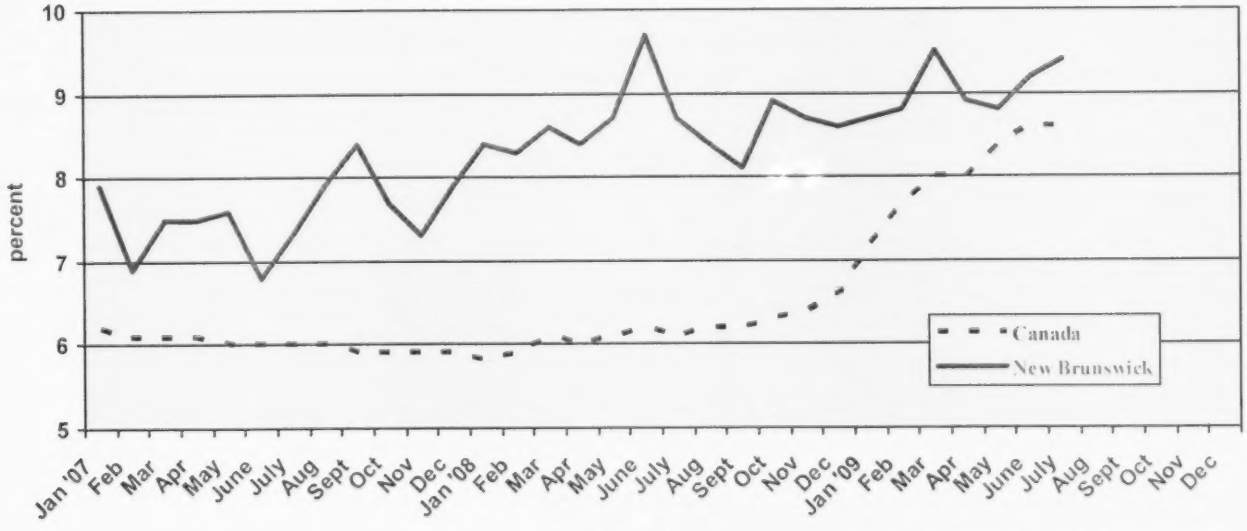
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	July '09	June '09	July'08
Labour Force	402,000	402,700	404,000	399,800
Employed	365,700	364,900	366,900	364,900
Unemployed	36,400	37,800	37,000	34,900
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	9.4%	9.2%	8.7%
Participation Rate	64.8%	64.8%	65.0%	64.7%
Employment Rate	58.9%	58.7%	59.0%	59.0%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In July, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.6%, the same as last month and 2.5 percentage points higher than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 9.4% was 0.2 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.7 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it stood at 8.7%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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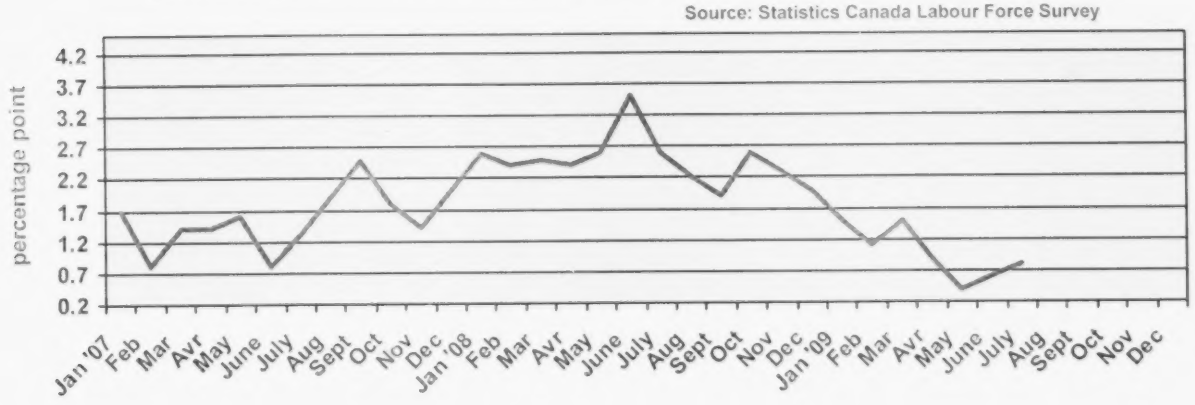
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 0.8 of a percentage point in July.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

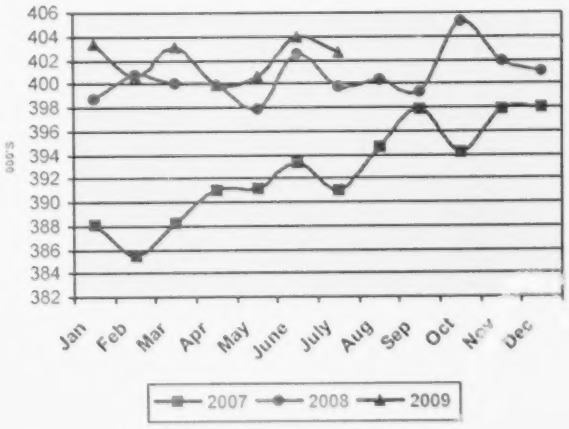
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 402,700 in July. This represented a decrease of 1,300 over last month, and an increase of 2,900 over the same time last year.

THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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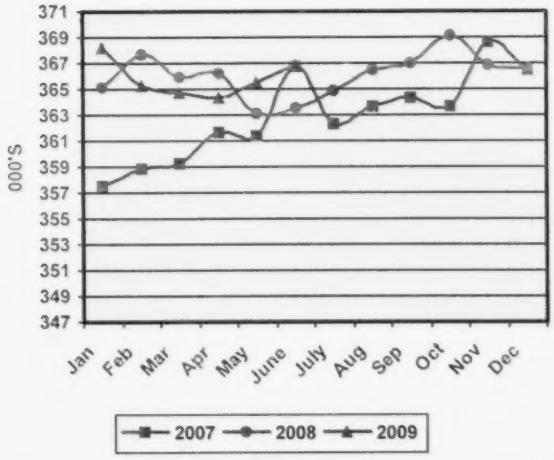
EMPLOYMENT

There were 364,900 people working in July. This is 2,000 less than last month but the same amount when compared to the same period last year. This meant New Brunswick recorded no year-over-year employment growth this month, which is still far better than the 1.8% loss in employment recorded nationally. This sitting government has committed to increasing employment by 25,000 over the length of the present mandate. To date employment has increased by 13,700 from September 2006 to July 2009, indicating this government has attained 55% of its goal.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

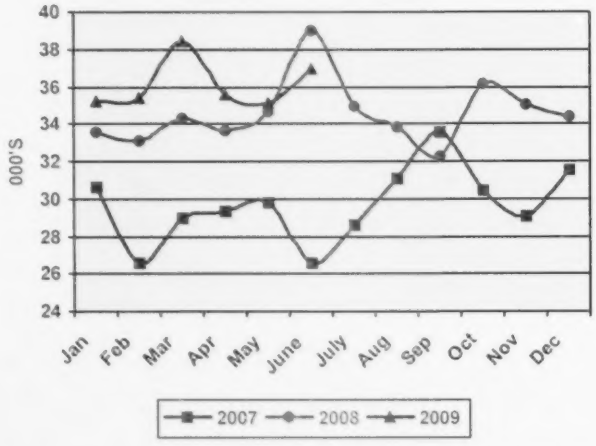


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 37,800 people unemployed and seeking work in July. This is 800 more people than what was recorded last and 2,900 more than the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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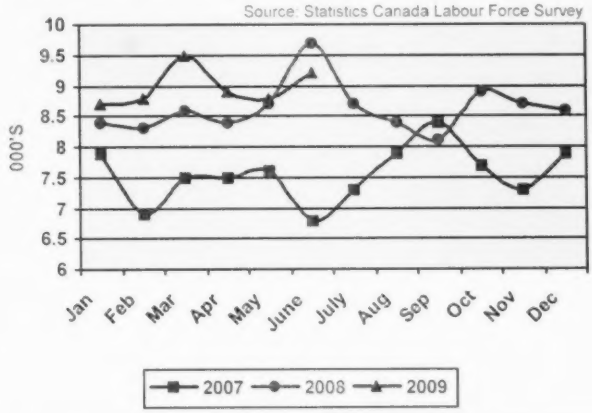
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 9.4% in July was 0.2 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.7 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year.

THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



July'09	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force (000)	79.5	116.7	99.2	75.2	44.6
Employment (000)	68.8	106.6	93.4	69.7	40.3
Unemployment (000)	10.7	10.1	5.7	5.5	4.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.5	8.7	5.7	7.3	9.6
Participation Rate (%)	58.8	63.5	69.0	70.7	65.4

Economic Regions	YTD		July'09		June'09		July'08	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	61,900	16.7%	**68,800**	**13.5%**	66,300	14.5%	72,900	14.3%
Southeast	103,900	8.0%	**106,600**	**8.7%**	105,000	8.5%	106,000	7.6%
Southwest	90,400	6.4%	**93,400**	**5.7%**	92,300	6.0%	89,100	7.5%
Central	65,400	8.1%	**69,700**	**7.3%**	66,500	8.3%	69,800	5.2%
Northwest	38,900	10.9%	**40,300**	**9.6%**	39,200	10.3%	39,700	9.6%

On a year over year basis (July 2009 compared to July 2008), employment increased in the Southwest (+4,300); Southeast (+600) and Northwest (+600) economic regions while employment decreased in the Northeast (-4,100) and Central (-100) regions.

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THE CITIES REPORT

Here is what's happening with the Labour Force in the Major Cites of New Brunswick, based on data from the August 7, 2009 release of the Labour Force Survey.

In July 2009, the Fredericton CA recorded the lowest unemployment rate (UR) in the province at 4.9%, down 0.9 percentage points over the same time last year. This was followed by the Saint John CMA that recorded an UR of 5.0%, down 1.3 percentage points when compared to last year. The Moncton CMA recorded an UR of 7.3%, up 1.2 percentage points over last year. Also in July, three regions recorded an unemployment rate higher than the provincial 3 month moving average rate of 8.7%. The Miramichi CA recorded an UR of 9.4%, up 0.5 percentage points over the same time last year. The Bathurst CA recorded and UR of 9.8%, up 1.3 percentage points over the same time last year. The Edmundston CA which recorded a UR rate of 10.8%, down 0.7 percentage points higher than last year.

The Saint John CMA (-800), the Fredericton CA (-400) and the Miramichi CA (-100) were the only cities in the Province to register a drop in the level of unemployed persons found in their respective regions. The Moncton CMA (+1,100), the Bathurst CA (+200) and the Edmundston CA (+100) all recorded increases in the number of unemployed persons found in their regions.

Last month, the Fredericton CA region recorded the highest level of employment growth, which grew by 3.9% or 2,000 jobs when compared to the same period last year. This was followed by the Saint John CMA, which grew by 3.8% or 2,500 jobs compared to June of last year. The Moncton CMA grew by 1.4% or 1,000 jobs when compared to last year. The Edmundston CA grew by 1.0% or 100 jobs while the Bathurst CA grew by 0.8% or 100 jobs when compared to the same period last year. The Miramichi CA was the only region to record a lower level of employment when compared to the same month last year, between July 2008 and July 2009 the region lost 1,500 jobs, a 14.7% drop in employment.

Also last month, the Miramichi CA (56.8%) was the only region to experience a decrease in its labour force participation rate, which declined by 3.1 percentage points. The July participation rate for Fredericton CA (76.4%) was up 1.9 percentage points when compared to the same period last year. The July participation rate for the Bathurst CA (68.0%) was up 1.3 percentage points. The Saint John CMA (67.9%) was up 1.1 percentage points, the Moncton CMA (71.7%) was up 0.7 percentage points, and the Edmundston CA (60.3%) was up 0.4 percentage points when compared to the same period last year.

When you combine the low unemployment rates found in all the three cities in the Southern part of the province with the high participation rates these cites have as well, and you consider the solid employment growth each of these have recorded last month, it is easy to determine the strongest performing cities on the labour front have been the Fredericton CA, the Saint John CMA and the Moncton CMA, and. The Fredericton CA, which has an unemployment rate of 4.9%, shrinking unemployment levels and solid employment growth was one of the best performing labour markets in Canada last month.

*Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - 3 month moving averages

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year over year basis was strongest in the following sectors:*

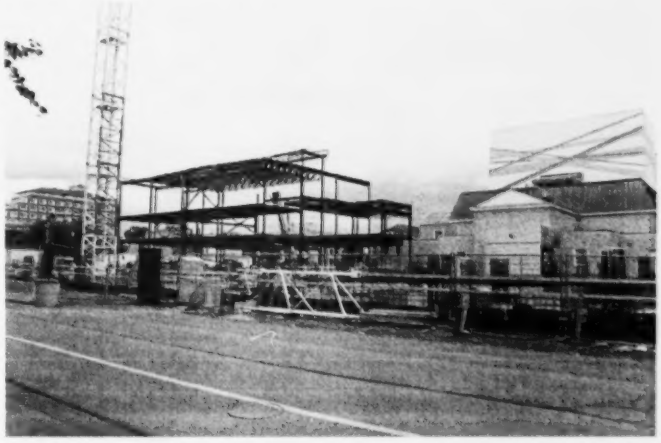
Construction (21.6%) – In July of 2009 there were approximately 27,600 people employed in this sector. This is the fifth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 16 of those months. All indications suggest the provincial infrastructure program combined with the federal economic stimulus plan and the booming urban centres of Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton are all working together to push construction employment levels to record levels, at least in the short-term.

Agriculture (20.7%) – In July of 2009 there were approximately 7,000 people employed in this sector. This is the eleventh month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 15 of those months. Even though we are only half way through the year, this sector is on pace to set a year over year employment growth record, year-to-date employment is up 25.0% from where it was at the same time last year.

Educational Services (20.1%) – In July of 2009 there were approximately 29,300 people employed in this sector (tying the employment record set in June of 2007). This is the tenth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 13 of those months. Strong provincial and federal investments into Educational Services are making more services available (particularly in the Post-Secondary side of the sector) while a weaker Canadian labour market is increasing demand for Educational Services as more people turn to training and education is a means to improve their employment prospects in tough economic times.

Information, Culture and Recreation (18.5%) – In July of 2009 there were approximately 12,800 people employed in this sector. This is only the second month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in only 10 of those months (8 happening during the first 8 months of this period).

* Includes the top three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year over year) increase in employment.



*Employment was weaker on a year over year basis in the following sectors**:*

Utilities (-17.9%) - In July of 2009 there were approximately 4,600 people employed in this sector. This is the fourth month in a row that this sector has experienced a year over year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year over year employment gains 20 times. This decline may be attributed to the fact that the Canaport LNG project in Saint John and the associated LNG pipeline and a number of other large construction projects are winding down.

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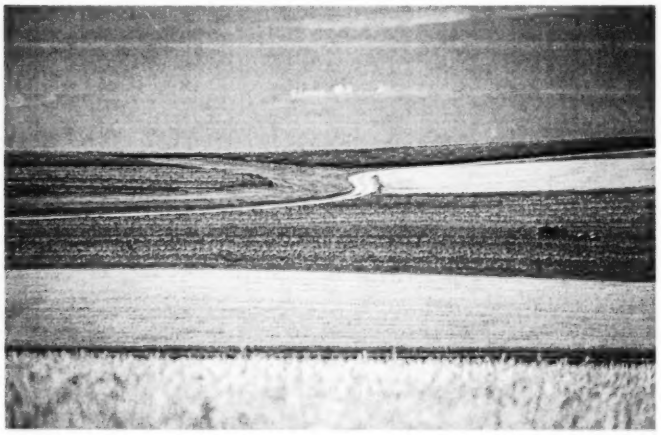
THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

Transportation and Warehousing (-13.0%) – In July there were approximately 18,000 people employed in this sector. This is the seventh month in a row that this sector has experienced a year over year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year over year employment gains 12 times. This decline may be attributed to the fact that many resource based sectors in the provinces have experienced a significant decline in export volumes as a result of the economic recession.

Retail and Wholesale Trade (-10.3%) – In July of 2009 there were approximately 53,100 people employed in this sector. This is tenth month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was the same or weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in 12 of those months (all in the first 14 months of this period). This new round of employment weakness in July can be attributed to the weakening economy and waning consumer confidence over this period.

Accommodation and Food Services (-10.1%) – In July of 2009 there were approximately 21,400 people employed in this sector. This is the eleventh month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year over year basis in only 7 of those months. This sector has taken hits as result of the weakening economy, the fluctuating value of the Canadian dollar and gas prices as well as changes to boarder security (the new passport requirement).

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year over year) decrease in employment



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